

preservation issues

NEWS FOR THE PRESERVATION COMMUNITY

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

★ Vol. 1, No. 4 ★

Fairgrounds Nominated for National Register

A 215-acre section of the Missouri State Fairgrounds at Sedalia, with buildings dating as far back as the first fair in 1901, has been nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Missouri State Fairgrounds Historic District contains a fine collection of early 20th century fair and exposition-type buildings which are significant for their architecture, as well as in the areas of agriculture, social history and entertainment/recreation.

The nomination, prepared under a Historic Preservation Fund grant to the Show-Me Regional Planning Commission, identifies 66 contributing buildings, sites, structures and objects, and a slightly larger number of noncontributing properties.

Most, perhaps all, district buildings constructed through 1926 were designed by Sedalia architect Thomas W. Bast. Bast's blueprints often featured Missionesque parapets, corner towers and other exuberant details which contributed to a festive atmosphere. Among Bast's clients was John Homer Bothwell, whose stone mansion atop a tower ridge north of the city is the centerpiece of Bothwell State Park.

Missouri was a relative latecomer on the state fair circuit, although lesser fairs were common during the decades following the Civil War as agriculture and livestock husbandry expanded. Beginning in 1866, St. Louis hosted agricultural fairs which drew especially large crowds. But many farmers wanted an official "state" fair where their achievements could be recognized, preferably in a rural setting. Finally, in 1899, the 40th General Assembly voted to establish a Missouri State Fair at a site to be determined.

Competition was keen. There were five finalists in addition to Sedalia: Centralia, Chillicothe, Marshall, Mexico, and Moberly. While any of these cities might have been a good choice, Sedalia had the largest population and its proposal was the most

FILE PHOTO



Live Stock Pavilion shortly after construction.

impressive. On June 3, 1899, delegations traveled to Jefferson City to make their final presentations. Ten ballots later, the State Board of Agriculture made Sedalia the "State Fair City."

Governor Lon V. Stephens, in explaining the selection, noted that Sedalia was served by two steam railroads and an electric street car company "running directly into the grounds, assuring ample facilities for handling an immense number of visitors . . . and freight; a guarantee secured by bond that water mains and electric wires for light and power would be extended into the grounds; and by the beauty and adaptability of the (160-acre) tract offered for Fair purposes."

Only a few wooden speed horse barns east of the mile racetrack survive from the first fair, in 1901. No brick buildings were erected until 1903, but the three exposition halls built that year (as the Agriculture Building, Horticulture Building and Poultry Building) survive as the Commercial Building, Varied Industries Building and FFA Building. Other early brick buildings include most of the animal barns, the Womans Building and the Coliseum.





Later-built resources include the art

deco/art moderne main entrance (constructed in 1939) plus various properties erected under 1930s Works Progress Administration projects on the fairgrounds.

Of special interest are the Coliseum, a spectacular arcaded pavilion of three stories built in 1905-06, and the Womans Building, a ca 1910 Georgian Revival mansion recently leased by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for exhibits, meetings, and educational activities.

The Missouri State Fairgrounds, maintained by the Missouri Department of Agriculture, is open to the public year round. Visitors are welcome. - *Roger Maserang*

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July/August 1991

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

This has been a successful year for the passage of Missouri legislation concerning historic preservation. Three bills have passed the House and Senate; one of those has already been signed by the Governor.

House Bill 613, sponsored by long-time friend of preservation the late Representative Martha Jarman, was signed by Governor Ashcroft on May 9. The bill allows transfer of the historic Warden's Residence at the Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City to the Department of Natural Resources for preservation under our Historic Preservation Revolving Fund.

Awaiting signature is Senator Henry Panethiere's Senate Bill 75, which contains provisions for the protection of abandoned shipwrecks. The bill requires a permit for the excavation of historic vessels, requires that at least 50 percent of recovered artifacts be offered to Missouri institutions, and imposes penalties for violations.

Also awaiting signature is Senate Bill 124, a cornerstone bill for the Missouri preservation effort, which was introduced by Senator Harry Wiggins. It confirms the Historic Preservation Program (HPP), Missouri Department of Natural Resources, as the official State Historic Preservation Office and provides legislative authority for the responsibilities of the HPP. The bill also provides much-needed clarification of the role and authority of local government efforts, empowering both municipalities and counties to carry out fundamental preservation activities.

The support of the legislature in passing

these three key bills reflects a growing awareness of historic preservation issues in Missouri. — *Claire Blackwell*

Unmarked Human Burial

Two native Americans who had rested peacefully in a central Missouri burial mound for more than 1,400 years were recently disturbed by the advance of modern civilization.

Senior archaeologist Michael Weichman was notified of the disturbance by a Columbia developer who discovered the Late Woodland (600-900 A.D.) burial mound while surveying streets for a new subdivision. Work in the immediate area was halted until archaeological excavations were completed this spring.

The discovery consisted of a rectangular crypt, six feet wide by eight feet long by three feet deep, constructed of stacked limestone slab rock and containing the human remains of a female 25-30 years of age and a child under four. One artifact, a biface (stone tool), was found near the knee of the female.

The burials were sited above evidence of a much earlier Late Archaic (3,000-1,000 B.C.) occupation. Several projectile points from the period were found below the burials. In addition, scattered human remains were found in the backfill outside the crypt which suggests the disturbance of an even earlier burial.

The remains are currently undergoing scientific analysis. They will then be released to native Americans for appropriate reburial as required by state law.

For more information about the Unmarked Human Burial Sites Law or to report a discovery, call (314) 751-7958 or write Michael Weichman, Senior Archaeologist. — *Karen Grace*

Historic Preservation Revolving Fund

The Historic Preservation Revolving Fund (HPRF) has nearly completed negotiations for the acquisition of two more endangered historic properties.

The most recent involved the impending transfer of ownership of the Warden's Residence in Jefferson City from the Missouri Department of Corrections to the HPRF via House Bill 613, signed by Governor Ashcroft on May 9.

This magnificent Queen Anne free classic style house remains largely unchanged from its original appearance (see Missouri Architecture at right). A sweeping staircase with a stained glass window above the landing, many large windows and curving windowseats are some of the many interior features. Outside, the turret, large porches, and wrought iron perimeter fence are likely to catch your attention as the most striking elements.

While the law will not take effect until August, preparations are underway to market the home to a preservation-minded buyer. An open house is planned to allow the public to view this unique home before it returns to private ownership. The potential for commercial use of this property as a bed and breakfast or as offices would allow some public access after the sale. As always, once the property is sold, preservation covenants will be attached to the deed to ensure the property's protection in perpetuity.

In a second transaction, the Wheeling Methodist Church has been donated to the fund by the Missouri West Conference of the Methodist Church Inc. to ensure its preservation. This ca 1874 property features lovely Gothic-arched stained glass windows and a bell tower with the bell intact. Declining membership in recent years caused the church to be closed and threatened with demolition. The revolving fund is in the process of having the church appraised and will then seek a buyer for the property. Preservation covenants will be used to protect its historic character, while allowing for rehabilitation and reuse.

For more information about the HPRF or available properties, call (314) 751-5373 or write Jane Beetem, Revolving Fund Coordinator. — *Jane Beetem*

PHOTO BARBARA COCHRAN



Governor John Ashcroft, seated center, signing House Bill 613. Representative Martha Jarman is seated right.

Archaeology PROFILES

A study of some unusual historical archaeological artifacts recovered from the Current River near Doniphan has recently been completed. Dr. James E. Price of the University of Missouri-Columbia, Department of Anthropology, conducted the study of fourteen log raft steering sweep poles found and recovered by Ray Joe Hastings, an amateur archaeologist and avid historian from Doniphan.

The study, funded by the National Park Service, involved measuring and photographing the specimens and preparation of a report describing each and the role they played in the cultural and technological history of the southeastern Missouri Ozarks region.



Illustration of archaeological raft sweep recovered from the Current River.

The specimens represent rather massive (25-36 feet long) steering devices which were attached to upright pivot posts on the front end of log or railroad tie rafts. These were floated down the Current River for processing and sale to various lumber companies in Doniphan ca 1880-1930. Rafts were usually 700 to 800 feet in length, consisting of logs or ties held together with "chain dogs" and coupling poles.

A steering oar or sweep was used to

maneuver the front end of a rapidly moving raft through the steep bends in the river. The "sweep man" was at the mercy of the raft's speed in the current and had to constantly ply the sweep to keep the front of the raft away from the river bank, rootwads, snags, and bluffs. Rafters called "bag men" were stationed along the length of a raft with pike poles to keep the raft shoved away from obstacles. Toward the rear of the raft, "snub men" inserted strong hickory poles vertically between the logs and dragged their ends of the river bottom to slow the rear of the raft, preventing the front of the raft from diving to the bottom.

There are only a few men alive who actually rode the rafts down the Current River but a rich legacy remains along the river in the form of archaeological sites as well as colorful place names such as "Log Yard", "Pulltite", "Pig Ankle", "Harry's Root", and "Snaggy Bend."

All 14 sweep specimens recovered by Mr. Hastings had their blades removed either by driving or cutting out the retaining pegs. Apparently, at the end of a raft journey, the blades were removed from the sweep poles and taken back up river to be remounted on new poles and used again for another descent.

Results of the study of these significant wooden artifacts, which were fortuitously preserved, will be used to interpret the complete raft sweep specimen in possession of the National Park Service, Ozark National Scenic Riverways, which is exhibited at Alley Spring in Shannon County. Another specimen, with a reconstructed blade, is on public exhibit at the Current River Heritage Museum in Doniphan. — James Price

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Editor: Karen Grace
Designer: Musick & Co.

MISSOURI HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE

Queen Anne Free Classic Houses 1880-1910

Characteristics:

- Usually large scale, two to three stories.
- Irregular shape due to various projecting parts which may include towers, turrets, projecting bays and pavilions, oriels, porches, and encircling verandas.
- A variety of wall textures (materials) often used in combination.
- Multi-gabled roof or hipped roof with lower cross gables.
- Irregular fenestration; stained glass in door and window transoms and accent windows is typical; most windows are one-over-one.
- Little or no spindlework, "gingerbread."
- Liberal use of classical details characterizes the free classic subtype and may include classical columns and pilasters, palladian, half-round, and cameo windows; dentils and ornamental moldings – swags, scrolls, florals, egg and dart, etc.

FILE PHOTO



Historic Photo ca 1900

1992 CAP Grants Available

The National Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Property has announced the availability of grants for the Conservation Assessment Program (CAP).

Funded by the Institute of Museum Services, CAP provides funds for an independent, professional conservation assessment of a museum's collections and environmental conditions and, where appropriate, historic structures. The assessor's resulting report will identify conservation priorities to assist the museum in developing a long-term plan for collections care and management.

CAP grants are one-time awards that support a two-day site visit by a conservation professional. For museums located in historic structures, the grants will also support the on-site participation of an architectural assessor.

The CAP program is first-come, first-served; the final date for application receipt is Dec. 6, 1991. To request an application or receive further information, contact immediately:

National Institute for the
Conservation of Cultural Property
3299 K Street, NW
Suite 403
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 625-1495.

preservation **issues**

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Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dates to Remember

President's Historic Preservation Awards and National Historic Preservation Awards nomination deadline July 31. Call Ann Post, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (202) 786-0503 for entry forms or more information.

Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Meeting August 9, Jefferson City. For more information call (314) 751-5365.

Great American Home Awards nomination deadline August 30. Awards are open to homeowners and/or professionals for rehabilitation projects completed after July 1986. Call Maureen McKasy-Donlin, National Trust for Historic Preservation (202) 673-4283 for entry forms or more information.

Second Annual Route 66 Motor Tour St. Louis to Joplin September 21-22. For more information call Jim Powell (314) 539-5500.

The 45th National Preservation Conference October 16-20, San Francisco. For information contact Preservation Conferences at the National Trust 1 (800) YES-NTHP.

American Society of Landscape Architects Annual Meeting October 19-22, Kansas City, celebrates the 100th anniversary of Kansas City's parks system. For information call Katherine McKnight (816) 842-2550. A one-day pre-session on the preservation of historic landscapes is scheduled for October 18. Call Janet Rowson (202) 686-1001.

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